

(a) whether the United State Trade Representative visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of various issues discussed between the two countries;

(c) the respective view points of both the countries; and

(d) the outcome of the discussions held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). The United States Trade Representative, Ms. Carla Hills, visited India from 4-8 October, 1991. During her visit, she held discussions on issues being negotiated in the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations as well as the process of economic reforms under way in India. In respect of the Uruguay Round negotiations, the issues discussed include Trade in Textiles, Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), Trade-Related Investment Measures (TRIMs), and the rule making issues. On the issue of Textiles, the Indian side expressed unhappiness over the roll-over of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement upto 31 December 1992 without any improvement and sought improved market access for India's textiles exports. The need to make the process of phase-out of the MFA credible and irreversible was emphasised, the U.S. side indicated that they were prepared to examine the Indian request.

On the issue of TRIPs, the two sides had detailed discussions on copyright, trade mark as well as enforcement against infringement of copyright and differences were narrowed considerably. On the issue of patents, no new point was raised and the two sides agreed to let the matter rest for the present. The issue of TRIMs was discussed in the light of recent changes in India's policy towards foreign direct investment.

Visit of Swiss Delegation

301. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Swiss delegation visited India in October this year for developing closer economic and trade relations between the two countries;

(b) if so, the outcome of the issues discussed during their visit; and

(c) the areas proposed by the Swiss delegation for investment in India and the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). A Swiss Delegation led by Mr. Rane Felber, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice President, Switzerland, visited India from 7th to 13th of October, 1991. During mutual discussions, both sides emphasised their commitment to deepen the existing political, economic and trade relations between the two countries. Besides, new areas of cooperation especially in the field of software, precision instruments, textiles and gems and jewellery were identified for potential cooperation between small and medium entrepreneurs of the two countries.

Manufacture of Light Combat Aircraft

302. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the development of light combat Aircraft indigenously indicating the expenditure incurred there on stage-wise since it was undertaken; and

(b) the time schedule fixed for accom-

plishment of the project and manufacture of LCA?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The project Definition Phase of the LCA has been completed. The next phase viz. the Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) as part of the Post-Project Definition Phase, commenced in April 90 and would be carried out in two phases. Government sanction is being sought for Phase I activities in which critical technologies are planned to be demonstrated. Phase II of FSED is envisaged for integration of various technologies to be demonstrated in parallel to Phase I. A sum of Rs. 390 crores has been spent by Oct 91 out of which Rs. 72.4 crores were spent on Project Definition Stage.

(b) The first flight of the technology demonstrator LCA is expected to be carried out in 1986. As per the current estimates, the manufacture of the LCA is likely to start in the early years of the next decade.

Alleged Misutilisation of Loans by Newspapers Groups

303. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether considerable amount of money borrowed on interest has been utilised by various Groups of Newspapers for advancing interest free loans and for other non-business purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not stopping the loans when these were not utilised for the purpose for which they were raised; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR

SINGH): (a) to (c). In accordance with the provisions of the statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions, as also Public Financial Institutions (Obligations as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983 and practices and usages customary amongst bankers, banks and financial institutions cannot divulge information relating to their individual constituents.

Joint Ventures Abroad

**304. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies granted permission under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 for joint ventures abroad;

(b) the names of the foreign companies alongwith the names of the respective Indian companies which have gone into joint ventures;

(c) whether the Government are aware that number of companies associated with the Indian industrial houses are operating outside India without necessary approvals required under the FERA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The names of the Indian companies and the respective foreign companies are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d). Under the scheme for set-